

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 14500

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD UR US

SUBJ: SOVIET CONCERN OVER FINANCING OF MOSCOW'S PROJECTED
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

REF: MOSCOW 10748

1. DURING PROTOCOL VISIT TO CHAMBER COMMERCE IN CONNECTION EXECUTIVE LEVEL TRADE MISSION STAY, CHAIRMAN BORISOV OF SOV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BROUGHT UP QUESTION FINANCING OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER WITH USDOC ASSISTANT SECRETARY TURNER, WHO PROMISED LOOK INTO MATTER ON HIS RETURN WASHINGTON. IN SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS DURING PAST WEEK VARIOUS OTHER SOV OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED MOUNTING CONCERN ABOUT DELAYS IN SECURING EXIMBANK APPROVAL FOR TRADE CENTER CONSTRUCTION LOANS. BORISOV HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY EMPHATIC IN POINTING OUT NEGATIVE IMPACT OF DELAY, CLAIMING IT SERIOUSLY EMBARRASSES HIM AND OTHER ADVOCATES STRONG TRADE TIES WITH U.S. BECAUSE IT LENDS CREDIBILITY TO ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WITHIN SOV GOVT OPPOSED TO DETENTE AND TO EXPANSION OF US-USSR RELATIONS. SUCH ARGUMENTS, PER BORISOV, BUILD VIEW THAT SECRETARIES SHULTZ, DENT AND OTHERS, WHILE PAYING LIP SERVICE TO PRINCIPLE OF EXPANDING COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC TIES, ARE NOT WILLING BACK PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD ADD SUBSTANCE TO THIS PRINCIPLE.

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2. IN PRIVATE EXCHANGES WITH CHARGE AND OTHER EMBOFFS,
CONCERN ABOUT LAG IN RESULTS REVIEW OF EXIM
FINANCING FOR TRADE CENTER PROMISED DURING SHULTZ/DENT
VISIT HAS BEEN INDICATED BY DEPUTY FON TRADE MINISTER
MANZHULO, DEPUTY FON TRADE BANK CHAIRMAN MAKEYEV,
FOR TRADE BANK BOARD MEMBER A. I. DUSHATIN, N. V. ZINOVYEV
(CHIEF DIVISION FOR TRADE WITH AMERICAS, MIN FOR TRADE) AS
WELL.

3. COMMENT: DOUBTS ABOUT OUTCOMING EXIM REVIEW TRADE CENTER
FINANCING PROPOSALS UNQUESTIONABLY GROWING WITHIN SOV FOREIGN
TRADE CIRCLES. IN VIEW HIS RECENT VISIT, EMBASSY SUSPECTS
ARMAND HAMMER HAS URGED SOVIETS EXERT GREATER PRESSURE FOR
EARLY DECISION BY USG.
DUBS

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